

Be in the First STMA Academy Class!

STMA IS OFFERING A NEW LEARNING OPPORTUNITY at the national conference: an Academy. The STMA Academy brings in-depth educational workshops that build on knowledge in core areas each year. This year a 400 series is offered; in 2013 a 500 series will be presented, etc. The workshops will be conducted Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

There is no additional fee to attend these workshops; they are included in the full conference registration package, which is unchanged from last year at \$375. However, pre-registration for an Academy class is required. A certificate of completion will be provided for the successful completion of each class. This is separate from the conference certificate of completion and is intended to confirm your commitment to a higher level of learning. Attendees who participate on Tuesday and on Friday will receive two certificates.

This education is structured to enhance your career and substantiate to your employer the value that he or she receives by you attending the STMA national conference. Watch for your conference brochure and the opening of on-line registration; both will be ready in early October.

TUES., JAN. 15, 2:30 - 5 p.m. (choose one)

STMA 400 - Hire the Best... But Know How to Fire Them Just in Case

Speaker: Patrick D. McGuiness

This workshop will cover how to hire the best employees for your facility as well as how to handle problem employees. From job postings to on-boarding, learn how to effectively and legally set up a hiring process that will bring the best and brightest job applicants to your operation. In addition, learn how to use employee handbooks for documentation purposes. This seminar will feature audience interaction and participation to cover a wide range of topics, including: job postings, applications, interviews, Form I-9, Form W-4, pre-employment physicals, drug testing, training, trial periods, employee discipline and motivation, and termination techniques.

STMA 401 - Performance Quality Standards - How good is your playing surface?

Speaker: Ian Lacy

This presentation will allow the sports field manager to be able to measure the quality of the playing surface using a set of objective criteria. The assessment evaluates structural, playing, and presentation standards using the following criteria: soil type, particle size distribution, pH, grass type, infiltration rate, hardness of surface, traction, ball bounce or roll

where applicable. The sports field manager can utilize PQS to identify the current quality of the playing surface, allowing a more dedicated approach to maintenance, and more efficient and effective use of resources and budgets.

STMA 402 - Meteorology: Understanding Weather and Climate

Speaker: Brad Jakubowski

Weather is a critical component of a turf manager's daily responsibilities. Turf managers can make better management decisions and provide consistent field conditions by better understanding weather patterns and concepts. This interactive seminar introduces fundamental weather concepts and provides turf managers with the tools to interpret daily weather reports, maps, and forecasts. Trends in weather and our changing climate will also be addressed.

FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 2:45 - 5 p.m. (choose one)

STMA 403 - Breeding, Development, and Production of Cool-Season Turfgrasses

Speaker: Leah A. Brilman, Ph.D.

Development of cultivars is a long term process. This presentation will discuss the process of breeding different species and specific development strategies for varieties adapted to athletic surfaces. The session will also cover how to understand trial data, selection of cultivars that will meet specific needs, and how to read seed tags to ensure you are getting the desired product.

STMA 404 - Common Diseases of Sports Turf

Speaker: Mike Fidanza, Ph.D.

The presentation will cover guidelines and methods to identify common diseases of sports turf, as well as current strategies to manage turfgrass diseases. Attendees will be able to identify the symptoms and signs of common diseases of sports turf; understand the relationship between weather/environment and turf disease severity and develop cultural practices and strategies to manage turfgrass diseases in sports turf.

STMA 405 - Best Management Practices to Increase Tolerance to Pests and Stress

Speaker: Mary Owen

Sports field managers are challenged to provide safe, quality playing surfaces while dealing with limited budgets and restrictions on the use of pesticides, particularly on school and municipal properties. This presentation will address the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a means of preventing and targeting specific cool season turfgrass insect, weed, and disease pests as well as abiotic stressors such as

traffic, wear, and drought. In addition to reducing the need for pesticides, BMPs are intended to result in water conservation and environmental enhancement.

STMA 406 - Turf Equipment Care and Maintenance

Speaker: Carl Osterhaus, CSM

This presentation will cover the many important aspects of Turf Equipment Care and Maintenance, which technicians can use to ensure that their equipment provides them with the longest and most productive service life. Information covered will include the importance of maintenance, general maintenance guidelines, and information to make maintaining equipment quick and efficient. Machine systems covered include, engines, hydraulics, electrical systems, and cutting units.

STMA 407 - Strengths-Based Leadership and Followership

Speakers: Eric K. Kaufman Ph.D., Richard J. Rateau, Ph.D.

Research reports that the most effective leaders are always investing in their strengths, surround themselves with the right people and then maximize their team, and understand their followers' needs. This interactive workshop will help participants identify their personal areas of talent and develop a plan for transforming those talents into strengths. In addition, participants will explore the four domains of leadership strength (executing, influencing, relationship building, and strategic thinking) as well as the four basic needs of followers (trust, compassion, stability, and hope). Participants will leave the workshop with specific ideas for promoting strengths-based leadership and followership in the workplace and other professional settings to help increase productivity.

STMA 408 - Managing Turfgrass Soil Physical Properties

Speaker: Andrew S. McNitt, Ph.D.

This presentation will explore the difference in management practices and approaches when managing a native soil sports field versus a high-sand sports field rootzone. Practices for both rootzones will be discussed. Often, the biggest mistakes are made when a sports field manager takes a practice designed for one type of rootzone and applies it to the other. A review of common misapplication of techniques will be discussed in detail. This workshop should be attended by any sports turf manager who is working to improve the air/water relationship in their rootzone. Common misapplication of drainage concepts as it relates to soil physical properties will also be covered. ■